Reviewer's report

Title: Quality assessment of DNA derived from up to 30 years old formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissue (FFPE) for PCR-based methylation analysis using SMART-MSP and MS-HRM

Version: 2 Date: 29 October 2009

Reviewer: Hongdo Do

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Minor Revision

1. It was previously asked why in Table 2, the estimates of methylation for RARB are up to 186%. The authors responded by adding the following sentence in the revised manuscript.

"One sample was estimated to be methylated above 100% at the RARB promoter by SMART-MSP. Methylation estimates relative to in vitro methylated DNA may occasionally be obtained for heavily methylated genes because the control may be 100% methylated in spite of extensive SsSI treatment [31]."

Presumably the word "not" is missing so that "the control may NOT be 100% methylated"?

A number of grammatical errors remain to be remedied.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.